

been allowed. Claims 1-11 are cancelled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claim 12 is amended herein. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at least at page 18, in structural formulas (A-1-1) and (A-1-2). It is submitted that no new matter has been added by the amendments herein.

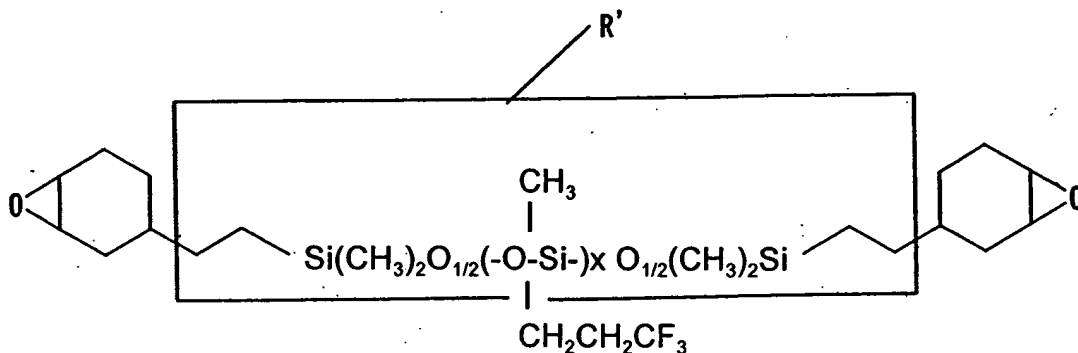
Claims 1-2 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over EP 572,179 (equivalent to U.S. Patent No. 5,178,959). (The Office Action includes Claim 13 in this rejection, but this was due to a typographical error, as noted in the Interview Summary mailed September 13, 2001.) Claims 3-11 were objected to as allegedly being dependent upon a rejected base claim. This rejection and objection are now moot with respect to cancelled Claims 1-11.

Claims 12-13 and 18-22 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75 as allegedly being a substantial duplicate of Claims 2-3 and 7-11. This objection is also now moot, as Claims 1-11 have been cancelled.

Regarding the Section 103(a) rejection of Claim 12, Applicants submit that amended Claim 12 is not obvious over EP 572,179 for the following reasons.

The Examiner asserts at page 2, paragraph 3, of the Office Action that the fluorine-containing epoxy resin of the present invention merely differs from the epoxy-functional fluorosilicone compositions ($M^E D^{Rf}_x M^E$) disclosed at page 2 of EP 572,179 in the perfluoroalkyl group, particularly the carbon number thereof. The Examiner therefore concludes that the present invention is obvious over the reference.

Applicants submit, however, that the epoxy resin ($M^E D^{Rf}_x M^E$) of the reference is clearly different from the epoxy resin of amended Claim 12 with respect to their main chains (basic skeletons). Specifically, the main chain of the resin of amended Claim 12, i.e., the R group of formula (A-1) bonding two epoxy groups, is an aliphatic residue having a main chain consisting of carbon and oxygen atoms. In contrast, Applicants note that the main chain of the epoxy resin ($M^E D^{Rf}_x M^E$) of the reference is represented by the following R' group, which includes silicon atoms.



Accordingly, Applicants conclude that EP 572,179 and U.S. Patent No. 5,178,959 do not disclose or suggest at least the feature of the composition of the main chain of the epoxy resin as recited in amended Claim 12.

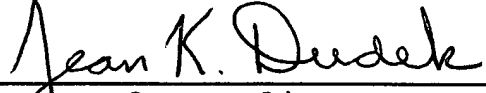
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the present invention, as recited in independent Claims 12, 13, 14 and 18, is patentably defined over the cited references. The dependent claims should also be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

The present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration, withdrawal of the

objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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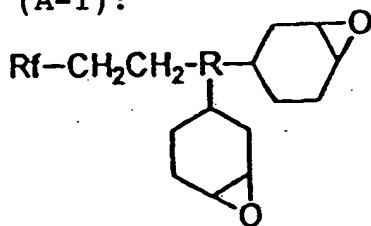
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

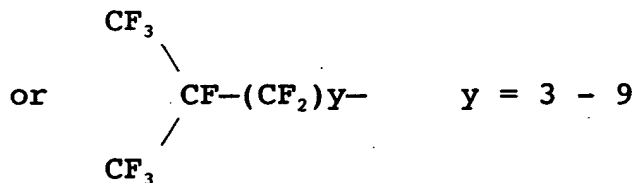
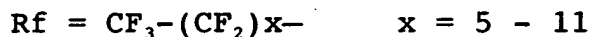
12. (Amended) A fluorine-containing epoxy resin
composition comprising:

an epoxy compound represented by the following

Formula (A-1):



(A - 1)



wherein R is an aliphatic residue for linking monomers each
having an alicyclic epoxy group, the aliphatic residue having
a main chain consisting of carbon and oxygen atoms, and
a cationic polymerization catalyst.

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